

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-11 MC-02 L-02 PRS-01 PM-03

H-01 EB-03 EUR-10 SCA-01 CIAE-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00

DODE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 (ISO) W

----- 012227

R 042314Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8285

S E C R E T SAN JOSE 3859

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: VESCO SHIPMENT OF ARMS

REF: STATE 212150

1. A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING TWO ALLEGED SHIPMENTS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION FROM ABROAD TO ROBERT VESCO.

2. THE FIRST TOOK PLACE DURING THE LAST WEEK OF MARCH 1974 WHEN AIRCRAFT N 44 JP WITH VESCO ABOARD BROUGHT IN FIVE LARGE CASES WITH A TOTAL WEIGHT OF 250 KILOGRAMS CONTAINING ARMS AND AMMUNITION. THE MERCHANDISE WAS HELD BY COSTA RICAN CUSTOMS BUT RELEASED TO ONE BILLY VILLALTA ON THE ORDER OF THEN PRESIDENT JOSE FIGUERES. VILLALTA IS THE FORMER CHAUFFEUR OF FIGUERES WHO IS NOW A MEMBER OF VESCO'S SECURITY GROUP.

3. THE SECOND SHIPMENT TOOK PLACE ON APRIL 15, 1974 WHEN AIRCRAFT N 33T R FROM NASSAU LANDED AT NIGHT WITH JOSE MARTI FIGUERES ABOARD. ALSO ABOARD WAS ONE STUART GRAYDON, US PP B-459083, WHO REPORTEDLY HAS A POLICE RECORD IN THE U.S. JOSE MARTI FIGUERES AND

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GRAYDON REPORTEDLY PLANNED TO ESTABLISH A FACTORY IN

COSTA RICA TO MANUFACTURE SUBMACHINE GUNS. THIS SHIP-
MENT ALSO REPORTEDLY CONTAINED ARMS AND MUNITIONS.

4. COMMENT: IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE THAT THIS
INFORMANT GOT THE APRIL 15 DATE WRONG, AND THAT THE
TRIP REPORTED IN PARA 3 IS IN FACT IDENTICAL WITH THE
APRIL 19 TRIP DOCUMENTED BEFORE THE JACKSON COM-
MITTEE. ON THE OTHER HAND THIS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN A
SEPARATE TRIP.
LANE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION CONTROL, ARMS SHIPMENTS, ARMS PRODUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANJO003859
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740282-0778
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741072/aaaacjfg.tel
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: STATE 212150
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: VESCO SHIPMENT OF ARMS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS, (VESCO, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005